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IRON AND STEEL INDUSTRY REPORTS PROGRESS; WORKERS SET NEW RECORDS

METALLURGICAL PLANTS MEET PLANS -- Trud, No 197, 21 Aug 49

Sessions of the second plenum of the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions were held on 19 - 20 August. The progress of the fulfillment of workers' contracts in metallurgical industry enterprises was discussed.

Drozdov, director of the "Yuzhuralnikel'" (Southern Ural Nickel) Combine, reported that the combine, in meeting its obligations, is fulfilling its plan for all products and for all technical-economic indexes. Tovstanovskiy, administrator of the Krivoy Rog Mine Administration imeni Kirov, stated that the mine administration had completed, ahead of schedule, its half-year plan for mining and development operations, increasing labor productivity, and lowering net costs. The newest high-productive equipment is used here in mining, dressing, and recovering ore.

Marusenko, chairman of the plant committee of the Stalingrad "Krasnyy Oktyabr'" Metallurgical Plant, reported that the plant is fulfilling its plan. Kogan, director of the "Azovstal'" Plant stated that the Azov plant has exceeded the production indexes planned for 1950.

A. P. Osipov, secretary of VTsSPS, in closing the session, stated that metallurgical workers had made much progress. Many enterprises have already attained the 1950 production level, including the Moscow "Serp i molot" Plant, "Krasnyy Oktyabr'" Plant, Plant imeni Serov, and the Moscow Hard Alloys Combine.

The Severskaya Plant and the Konstantinovka Plant imeni Frunze did not fulfill their half-year plans for the entire production cycle. One of the basic causes of this is the great shortcomings in the organization of production and labor.

Kommunist, No 202, 27 Aug 49

The Magnitogorsk Metallurgical Combine imeni Stalin has achieved the 1950 production rate.

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NEW PRODUCTION RECORDS SET -- Vechernyaya Moskva, No 202, 25 Aug 49; Trud, No 200, 25 Aug 49

Dnepropetrovsk metallurgical plants imeni Petrovskiy, imeni Lenin, and imeni Karl Libknekht have pledged to complete at least one high-speed melt per shift and to increase the steel output per square meter of furnace sole to 6.5 tons instead of the norm of 4.8 tons.

Steelworkers of the Moscow "Serp i molot" Plant have pledged to complete two high-speed melts per shift, and to remove 8.5 tons of steel per square meter of furnace sole in the first open-hearth shop and 11.5 tons in the second shop. One steelworker has already completed a high-speed melt in 4 hours 55 minutes instead of 6 hours 20 minutes called for in the schedule. Workers have also pledged to lengthen the furnace run by 32 melts in the first shop and 50 melts in the second.

Vechernyaya Moskva, No 207, 31 Aug 49

A steelworker of open-hearth shop No 2 at the "Serp i molot" Plant was awarded the title of "Honored Metallurgist" by the Ministry of the Metallurgical Industry. He completed two-high-speed melts in the morning shift and removed 13.5 tons of steel per square meter of furnace sole, which is twice the norm.

Pravda Ukrainy, No 199, 24 Aug 49

A steelworker of open-hearth shop No 2 in the Metallurgical Plant imeni Dzerzhinskiy completed a record high-speed melt in 4 hours 45 minutes and removed 10.22 tons of steel per square meter of furnace sole, instead of the new progressive norm of 6.9 tons. Workers of blast furnace No 1 have achieved a coefficient of capacity utilization of the furnace of 0.52, instead of the new progressive norm of 0.62.

Pravda Ukrainy, No 206, 1 Sep 49

The average progressive norm for the yield of steel per square meter of furnace sole in the open-hearth shop of the "Azovstal'" Plant has been set at 7.1 tons, whereas the shop is actually obtaining a yield of 7.2 tons. The shop is now attempting to decrease smelting time to 14 hours per melt.

Moskovskiy Komsomolets, No 111, 10 Sep 49

The best results among steelworkers at the Magnitogorsk Metallurgical Combine have been achieved by Fokin who obtained a yield as high as 10 tons per square meter of furnace sole. Other workers exceeded the norm by 1½ tons per square meter. Since the beginning of the year, the combine's workers have completed 1,500 high-speed melts.

Komsomol'skaya Pravda, No 200, 25 Aug 49

Fukalov, worker at the Serov Metallurgical Plant, achieved a world record for the coefficient of capacity utilization of a coke blast furnace. In 1949, he achieved a coefficient of 0.689.

Krasnaya Zvezda, No 213, 9 Sep 49

A group of workers at the Serov Metallurgical Plant have achieved a coefficient of capacity blast-furnace utilization of 0.60, as compared with the norm of 0.86.

Izvestiya, No 200, 25 Aug 49

In July, the shop for repair of open-hearth furnaces in the Nizhniy Tagil Metallurgical Plant set the goal of completing the reconditioning of an open-hearth furnace in 8 days, as compared with the 9 days 18 hours which is the norm for the Magnitogorsk Plant and the 8 days 12 hours norm for the Kuznetsk Plant. The Nizhniy Tagil shop had formerly taken 25 days to repair one furnace. Not only did the shop exceed its norm by completing the job in 7 days, but the open-hearth shop, although minus one furnace, exceeded its July plan, making a record number of high-speed melts. The basic reconstruction of the one furnace has resulted in the doubling of its capacity.

Leningradskaya Pravda, No 207, 2 Sep 49

At the Konstantinovka Metallurgical Plant imeni Frunze, cold repair of an open-hearth furnace has been completed in the record time of 82 hours, as compared with the norm of 200 hours. The work was speeded by shortening the period for cooling the furnace and by complete mechanization of labor-consuming processes. Cooling the furnace usually takes almost 2 days. By using water and air cooling, repair workers started dismantling the slag pockets directly after the last melt. The openings in the furnace wall, where the explosives are laid, were first of all insulated with a layer of cold clay, thereby saving nearly 30 hours in the process of blasting. The use of conveyors, cranes, pneumatic hammers and other machinery enabled repair workers to cut in half the schedule for clearing the area.

Moskovskiy Bol'shevik, No 204, 30 Aug 49

Steelworkers of the "Elektrostal'" Plant have entered the competition initiated by the "Serp i molot" Plant to increase the operating period of furnaces between repairs. In the first month of the competition, steelworkers made 42 melts above the plan by increasing the durability of the furnaces. One brigade made 97 melts in one furnace run instead of the norm of 65 melts. Workers at the sixth furnace achieved more than 100 melts without furnace repairs, and all workers of the first shop are striving to achieve that record.

Leningradskaya Pravda, No 212, 8 Sep 49

Steelworkers at the electric furnace in the Nevskiy Plant imeni Lenin have had success in increasing the furnace run between repairs. Until recently, the roof and walls of the furnace withstood a maximum of 60 melts between repairs. After several structural changes were made, the furnace could withstand 80-100 melts without repair. In August, steelworkers obtained 110 melts in the furnace before repairs were necessary, instead of the norm of 40 melts. In that same month, 70 percent of all melts were done by high-speed methods, 60,000 kilowatt hours of electric power and 3 tons of electric wire and other equipment were saved, and 60 more tons of steel were produced than during July. The furnace has been considered the best electric furnace in Leningrad for 2 months in succession.

KRIVOY ROG MECHANIZATION AT NEW LEVEL -- Gornyy Zhurnal, No 5, May 49

The level of mechanization of the Krivoy Rog iron mines, in basic and domestically-produced machinery, is higher than the prewar level as a result of the increase in the mechanization of chief labor-consuming processes. In October 1948, the level of mechanization in drilling was 100 percent, 92 percent in ore hauling, 96.4 percent in underground hauling, 96.1 percent in surface hauling, and 97.8 percent for railroad car loading.

To increase labor productivity, the number of auxiliary workers should be decreased. Only 19 percent of the Krivbass workers are engaged directly in actual mining operations; 49 percent work in other underground operations and 32 percent work on the surface. The technology in the other underground operations and surface work must be improved, since 81 percent of the workers are engaged in these operations.

Of the total output of the Krivbass in 1948, 65 percent was mined by sublevel caving, 25.9 percent by sublevel drifts, 2.2 percent by the shrinkage method, 1.5 percent by level caving, 2.8 percent by open workings, and 2.6 percent in development work.

During 1949, four large mines will be converted to complex mechanization. The conversion to the two-shift, interrupted work week will play an important part in further intensifying production.

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